GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5078
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2003
FOOD SUBSIDY
SRINIVASULU KALAVA

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether quantum of food subsidy being spent on other below poverty line families is far less as compared to the amount spent as buffer subsidy;

(b) if so, the details of the below poverty line food subsidy land buffer subsidy spent by Government during the last three years;

(c) the steps being contemplated to minimize the buffer subsidy for maintaining the surplus stock;

(d) whether there is any proposal to provide maximum food subsidy to the below poverty line families; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SU MAHARIA)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): The details of BPL food subsidy (including AAY) and buffer subsidy during the last three years are as under:-

(Rs. In crore)

Year	BPL subsidy	Buffer subsidy
2000-2001	4446.18	4232.75
2001-2002	6217.07	5881.90
2002-2003	8977.16	5973.10

(c): The following steps have been taken to minimize the buffer subsidy for maintaining the surplus stock:-

(i) Increase in the scale of issue under the PDS to 35 kg. per family per month w.e.f. April, 2002.

(ii) Freezing of Central Issue Prices (CIP) of foodgrains for BPL and APL families.

(iii) Implementation of the AAY scheme.

(iv) Launch of the foodgrains based on Sampoorna Gramin Rojgar Yojana (SGRY).

(v) Allocation of foodgrains under the Food for Work and the Special Component of the SGRY programme.

(vi) Encouragement to Exports.

(d)&(e): Wheat and rice are being supplied to BPL (including AAY) families at highlysubsidized rates at less than 50% of the economic cost in all the States. The rate of issue to AAY families is Rs. 3/- per kg for rice and Rs. 2/- per kg for wheat. The level of issue of foodgrains has been increased to 35 kg for BPL and AAY families w.e.f. 01.04.2002.